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When is your final?

Exam schedule inside!

November 30, 2006

JSU student, 17, killed in car wreck over weekend

By Leslie Gober
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

Caitlin Victoria Rebecca Graeff, a 17-year old freshman majoring in biology and minoring in music, was killed this weekend in a single car accident when her car left the road in Cherokee County early Sunday morning, Nov. 26.

Graeff's friends said she was driving on Highway 9 when she made a wrong turn. Officials at the scene said that Graeff died upon impact from head injuries. She was pronounced dead at 1 a.m. Sunday.

Graeff was very active within the Walters Department of Music. She was a member of the JSU A Capella Choir, Chamber Singers, and opera workshop. Graeff was active in several productions with Jacksonville Opera Theatre.

Graeff began her musical

roots in high school where she was active in the choir. She sang first soprano, received superior ratings at the Alabama Vocal Association for her solos.

She also performed in drama club productions, and she helped manage the school's soccer team.

She was also a very talented actress, performing in the opera *The Gondoliers* this past May. She had a role in the upcoming madrigal dinner and was scheduled to perform in the chorus of the upcoming production of *Hansel and Gretel* in January with Jacksonville Opera Theatre.

She attended Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Anniston where she was active in the youth group.

Funeral Services for Caitlin will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 11:00 a.m. at Parker. The A Capella Choir of JSU will be performing there.

THE CHANTICLEER

www.thechanticleeronline.com

Jacksonville State University

Volume 55, Issue 13

Twice is nice

Gamecock volleyball wins second straight OVC title



Photo courtesy of www.jsufan.com

The Gamecock volleyball team celebrates after winning its second straight OVC championship. The tournament took place at Pete Matthews Coliseum and the Gamecocks rode their homecourt advantage all the way to the title. Read all about the tournament and the Gamecocks trip to Tennessee for the NCAA tournament in Sports on page 6.

From those who knew her

"Caitlin was like a ray of sunshine. When things seemed tough she always brightened my day with her smile and the twinkle in her eyes."

— Elizabeth Pinkard

"Caitlin was the kind of person that it was always a pleasure to be around. She made you want to try to be better because



JSU in

"Catlin was the kind of person that it was always a pleasure to be around. She made you want to try to be better because you saw how happy she was and you wanted to be that happy, too. I considered myself incredibly lucky to have been able to spend the time I have spent with her on this earth. I know for a fact that she is smiling down on all of us right now."

-- Matt Moore



Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Opera Theater

"She exuded purity and innocence, the type that we lose when we get older. What a wonderful human being. The images of Catlin walking around Mason Hall keep playing in my mind. She was a beautiful person inside and outside. I feel like I was starting to get close to her. Our time was cut short, but we all learned so much from her. She is going to be greatly missed."

-- Estefania Cuevas

Next-generation gaming:

An all-you-need-to-know guide

By Chris Pittman

The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

The battle to top the next generation of gaming is now underway with the release of Sony's Playstation 3 and Nintendo's Wii.

Together along with Microsoft's Xbox 360, they will make up what is sure to be an interesting battle for the next-generation gaming crown. This new breed of consoles is more powerful than ever and looks to make a splash during the holiday shopping season.

Sony will attempt to keep its spot at the top of the gaming plateau with the PS3, which aims to be an all-in-one media center.

Availability will be the main issue with the PS3.

Most if not all stores have already sold out of the console, and some do not expect to get new shipments until next year. The demand for the system has started to show as prices on eBay have shot up to five times the retail price or more.

The shortage of consoles has led to violence across the nation with reports of shootings and people being robbed at gunpoint. Police even had to use pepper spray on people outside a Virginia Circuit City store.

The console was released on Nov. 17 in two forms. The basic unit retails for \$499, and the premium unit will set you back \$599.

The premium package comes

See "Gaming", page 3



All photos by Jessica Summe



Top: (From left) Ashley Brumberg, Renee Burt, Morgan Tucker, and Kari Renyonds perform in the President's House.

Above: JSU President Dr. Bill Meehan greets a student at the JSU in Lights reception.

Above right: SGA President Mardracus Russell hugs a friend in front of the President's House.

Right: The crowd applauds as the lights turn on around campus.

Below: JSU Ambassadors were stationed at the doors and around the house to guide guests.



Lights

By Jessica Summe

The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

"Last year was the first year I missed it," said Dr. Clark Hudspeth of the JSU in Lights reception at

everyone. [The hot chocolate] is quite tasty. They're real marshmallows, not dehydrated."

While Gulliford and many others enjoyed the refreshments and décor, some students were on call during the party.

"We're guarding the stairs," said Chad Hoffman, a JSU Ambassador.

This hard-working group of JSU students were stationed around the house to provide tours, answer questions, and mingle with guests.

Performing at the reception were a flute quartet, a brass quintet, and a selection of student vocalists from Phi Mu Alpha, the musical fraternity.

At 5 p.m., all guests were ushered outside to watch JSU light up the night.

In honor of his having won SGA President two years in a row, Dr. Bill Meehan let Mardracus Russell turn on the numerous strands of lights around campus.

"I sure hope there's not a blackout when I hit the switch," joked Russell.

Despite Russell's fears, the lighting ceremony went off without a hitch, and the guests began to file home, basking in the glow.

the President's House.

"I really enjoy seeing Bill (Meehan) and his wife and bumping into whoever...it's well timed, we're going into the holidays, the end of the semester, and we can all just take a breath and relax."

The reception, held on Nov. 27 at the President's House on Trustee Circle, started at 4 p.m.

Soon after that, the house was overflowing with faculty, students, and staff of JSU.

"I never knew [that this] happened," said Kassi Gulliford, a music education senior. "I went to check my campus mail, and my friend had an invite. We played Frisbee for a while, then came over here."

It was Gulliford's first time seeing President Meehan's home.

"I knew who he was, I just never knew that he opened his house to



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Public Relations Organization: PRO will host a Portfolio Review Luncheon Monday, Dec. 4 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. The panel of professionals include Dr. Ihator, Dr. Hedrick and Mr. Stedham. Contact: Jaclyn Cosper, 782-5712

Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow: Congratulations, graduates! STAT Club will host a Graduation Celebration on Dec. 15 following rehearsals. For RSVP and more info, contact Alan. Contact: Alan Renfro, 782-8256

Writer's Club: The Writer's Club would like to congratulate the winners of the R.U.M. Short Fiction Contest. First Place: Josh Mullican, "The Devil Was An Eight Ball That Would Not Fall". Second Place: Coty Cockrell, "The Day It Rained in Stillwater County". Third Place: Darin Medders, "Into the Dark". Runners-up: Frances Hutchinson, Sarah Moersch, Zachary Sarver, and Jessica Summe. Contact: Dr. Pitt Harding, pharding@jsu.edu

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy: Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed, and are limited to 50 words. Submissions must include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall, or emailed to Chantnews@yahoo.com by 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and clarity.

Reasons to celebrate

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

It's probably safe to say that almost everyone understands the meaning and symbolism of Christmas.

However, there are many other holidays and celebrations during this festive time that are often overlooked.

Here's a quick look at several other winter holidays:

Rohatsu is the commemoration of Buddha's enlightenment. Zen participants often spend most of the week in intense meditation. On Dec. 8, Buddhists will meditate all night in remembrance of Buddha seeing the morning star on the morning of his enlightenment.

Dates: December 1 - December 8 or 10

Colors: N/A

Presents?: None.

Fun Fact: The Buddhist gesture of greeting others by placing both palms together in front of the face is called the *gassho*.

Hanukkah, the "Festival of Lights", is actually a relatively minor Jewish holiday, but gathers a lot of attention because of its closeness to Christmas and similar gift-giving tradition. The story of Hanukkah is about ancient Jewish heroes and the survival of Jewish culture in a non-Jewish world.

After three years of fighting the Greek ruler Antiochus IV, the rebel Jewish army (the Maccabees) reclaimed the temple on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem in the year 165 B.C. When they prepared the temple for rededication, they only had oil enough to burn for one night, but, amazingly, the oil lasted for eight days.

The lighting of the menorah (*hanukkiya* in Hebrew) is the most important tradition. During each night of the festival, another candle is lit until all eight candles are burning and all eight days of Hanukkah have been observed.

Many participants enjoy playing the dreidel, which actually was created to study the Torah in secret. When caught, Jews could pretend they had just been playing a game. The Hebrew letters on the dreidel are translated to "A great miracle happened there".

Popular foods for Hanukkah are made with oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes).

instead of "shin" (there) so that it reads "A great miracle happened here".

Yule is the celebration of the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. It marks the return of the Sun /Oak King/Horned God from the darkness of the winter season. Many Christmas traditions spring from Yule lore, such as caroling, decorating the Yule tree, the exchange of presents, the drinking of cider and eggnog, honoring Kris Kringle, decorating with holly, ivy, and mistletoe, and the burning of the Yule log. Traditionally cut from an Ash tree, (the same wood of Yggdrasil, the Teutonic World Tree) the Yule log is inscribed with religious symbols, decorated with seasonal greenery, doused with ale or cider, and dusted with flour before being set on fire with a piece of last year's Yule log. The log then burns all night during the festivities, then smolders for the next 12 days. Modern practitioners often burn candles or decorate tree branches in place of a Yule log.

Date: December 21

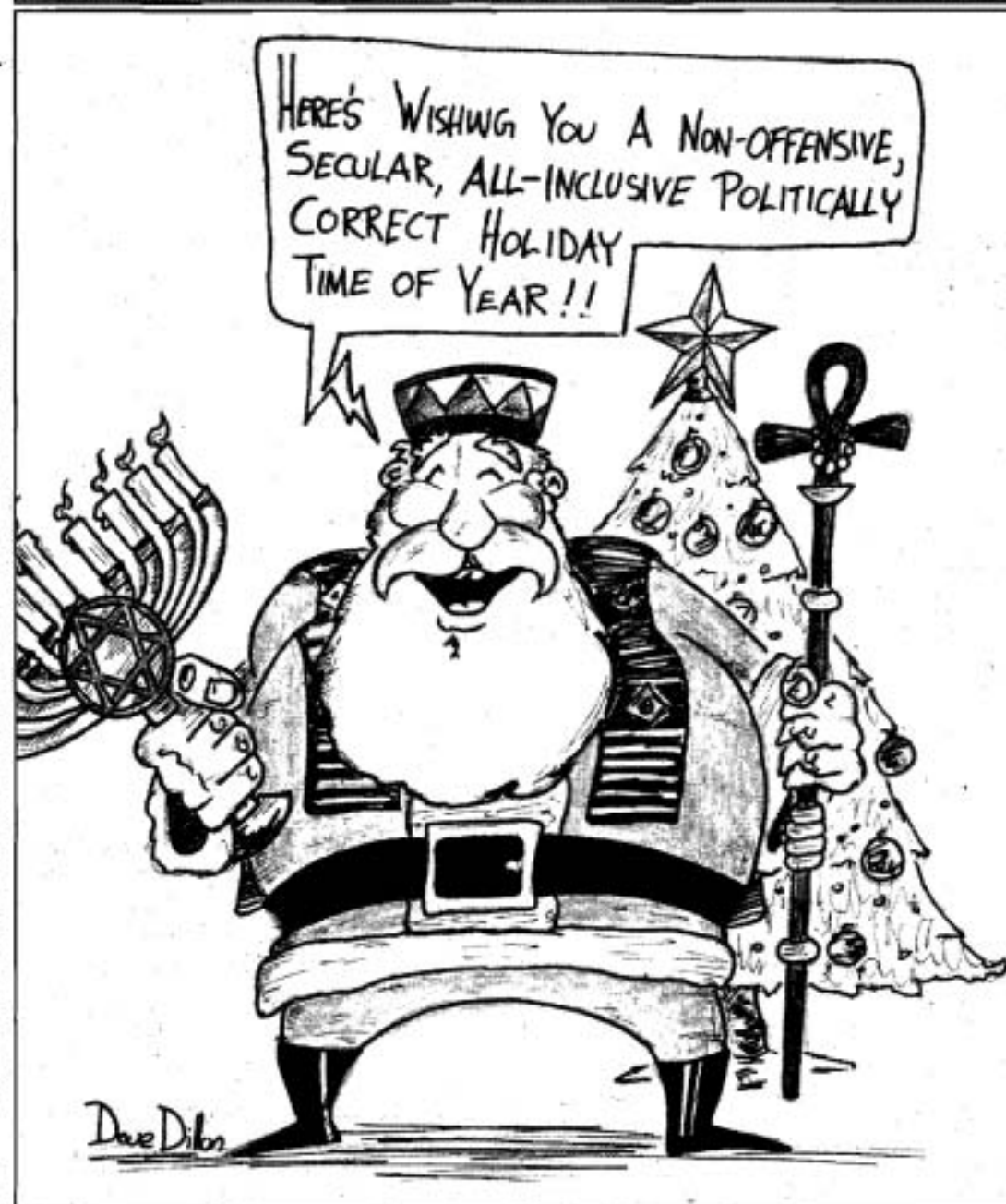
Colors: Primarily red and green but also gold, white, silver, yellow and orange.

Presents?: Traditionally, apples and oranges (which represent the sun), wheat (the harvest), flour (life and triumph) and evergreen branches (immortality).

Fun Fact: Yule is perceived as an auspicious time to cast spells of peace, love, harmony and increased happiness.

Kwanzaa, a rapidly-growing celebration of African culture, was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to "reaffirm the communitarian vision and values of African culture" (from *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*). Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits" in Swahili, is based on ancient African harvest festivals. The seven days of Kwanzaa represent the Seven Principles of Nguzo Saba, the values that strengthen the bonds of family, community, and culture.

The Chanticleer Editorial Cartoon



substitute the European traditions of Christmas (such as Christmas trees, Santa Claus, and gift-giving) for African traditions.

Dates: December 26 - January 1

Colors: Red, black, and green.

Presents?: Mostly given to children, presents must include both a book and some kind of heritage symbol.

Fun Fact: Kwanzaa has a different greeting for each day of the celebration. When asked "Habari gani?", participants respond with that day's Principle in Swahili. (Example: "Habari gani?" "Nia." [Purpose])

Eid ul Adha. This Islamic holiday celebrates the end of Hajj, a traditional pilgrimage most Muslims undertake at some point in their lives. During the three days of Eid ul Adha, participants wear their finest clothing, visit friends

Exceptionally delicious

By Brigitte Powell
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, the Student Council for Exceptional Children held a bake sale in the Ramona Wood building. It was open to all JSU students and faculty members.

The Student Council for Exceptional Children has been on the JSU's campus for many years. Their main focus is to let the world know about the exceptional qualities of people with disabilities.

"Awareness is very important."

All the proceeds from this bake sale will go toward funding their trip to the Student Council for Exceptional Children State Convention which will be held at the Winfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Al.

This organization worked extremely hard from the planning of the bake sale to the actual baking of all the treats.

"We are very thankful for everyone who came by to support us," Gardner said.

The Student Council for Exceptional Children plans on holding

CAMPUS CRIME

11/16

Laura Peek reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Self Hall.

Iteya Jackson reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Penn House Apartments.

Kelly Boersma reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Houston Cole Library.

Roosevelt Mason III reported theft of property at Crow Hall.

11/18

Malcom Nightingale Jr. reported theft of property at Daugette Hall.

11/20

Nathan Landrum reported a burglary at Daugette Hall.

Richard Drescher reported receiving stolen property from eBay.

11/21

Jessica Rector reported theft of property at Stone Center.

11/26

John Scott reported a burglary at Penn House Apartments.

John Roper III reported a burglary at College Apartments.

Rebecca Kenney reported harassing communications at Fitzpatrick Hall.

Kimberly Nichol reported a burglary at College Apartments.

11/27

The JSU Music Department reported theft of property at Mason Hall.

Cody O'Connor reported a burglary at Crow Hall.

Lisa Hicks reported theft of property at Daugette Hall.

11/28

Dominique Marks reported theft of property at Stephenson Hall.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-5701, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050.

dreidel are translated to "A great miracle happened there".

Popular foods for Hanukkah are made with oil, such as latkes (potato pancakes). Another tradition is to eat cheese and dairy products during the festival.

Dates: December 15 - December 22

Colors: Blue, silver, and white.

Presents?: Almost anything is acceptable, but giving doughnuts (which are cooked in oil) can be especially appropriate. Individual families decide when to open their gifts.

Fun Fact: In Israel, the dreidel has the Hebrew letter "pay" (here)

of Kwanzaa represent the Seven Principles of Nguzo Saba, the values that strengthen the bonds of family, community, and culture. These values are Unity (Umoja), Self-Determination (Kujichagulia, Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima), Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa), Purpose (Nia), Creativity (Kuumba), and Faith (Imani).

Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one. The festival "celebrates the common ground of African culture" and can be combined with any religious holiday. However, participants of both Kwanzaa and Christmas can

lims undertake at some point in their lives. During the three days of Eid ul Adha, participants wear their finest clothing, visit friends and family, sacrifice herd animals for feasts and reflect on the special times they have shared.

Dates: December 31 - January 2

Colors: N/A

Presents?: While not traditional, many families exchange gifts during this holiday.

Fun Fact: The blessing for Eid ul Adha is "Eid Mubarak", which translates to "May God make it a blessed feast".

main focus is to let the world know about the exceptional qualities of people with disabilities.

"Awareness is very important," faculty advisor Teresa Gardner said. "We want for students not to be afraid of people with disabilities."

one who came by to support us," Gardner said.

The Student Council for Exceptional Children plans on holding more fund raisers in the coming months to continue raising awareness for their cause.

SPRING BREAK INFORMATION

800-488-8828

www.sandpiperbeacon.com

FREE SPRING BREAK
MODEL SEARCH CALENDAR

*Valid for first 1000 reservations.

Final exam schedule:

DATE	CLASS TIME	EXAM TIME
Wed., December 6	07:30 MWF	10:00-12:00
	15:00 MWF	13:30-15:30
	16:30 W	17:00-19:00
	18:15 MW	17:30-19:30
	18:15 W	18:00-20:00
	19:45 MW	20:00-22:00
Thur., December 7	07:30 TT	07:30-09:30
	11:00 TT	10:00-12:00
	14:30 TT	13:00-15:00
	16:30 TH	17:00-19:00
	18:15 TH	18:00-20:00
	19:45 TT	19:00-21:00
Fri., December 8	12:30 MWF	08:00-10:00
	11:15 MWF	10:30-12:30
	13:45 MWF	13:30-15:30
Sat., December 9	Same Time As Class Normally Meets	
Mon., December 11	08:45 MWF	08:00-10:00
	10:00 MWF	10:30-12:30
	16:00 MW	16:00-18:00
	16:15 MW	16:00-18:00
	16:30 MW	16:00-18:00
	16:30 M	17:00-19:00
	18:15 M	18:00-20:00
Tue., December 12	09:15 TT	08:00-10:00
	12:45 TT	10:30-12:30
	16:00 TT	16:00-18:00
	16:15 TT	16:00-18:00
	16:30 TT	16:00-18:00
	16:30 TU	17:00-19:00
	18:15 TU	18:00-20:00
	18:15 TT	18:00-20:00

Take a trip around the world.
Anniston Museum of Natural History



Take a trip back in time.
Berman Museum of World History

Visit the Museums, Tuesday through Saturday
10AM-5PM, Sunday 1-5PM and summer Mondays.
JSU students with valid ID receive free admission
during fall semester 2006 & spring semester 2007.

Want to design games? Here's your chance

By Bethany Harbison
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Beginning in the Spring 2007 semester, a brand new course called Game Design (CS 339) will be offered by the computer science department to JSU students.

Course instructor David Thornton explained that the department decided to offer the course after realizing that all computer science majors followed the same basic track of classes.

By making courses such as CS 339

available, the department hopes that students will be able to achieve a higher level of specialization, which should aid them in the job hunt after graduation.

"We want to help our students stand out from the pack after they get out of here," Thornton said.

The course will aim to simulate the real-life process of creating a video game—a process that Thornton says has changed dramatically since the birth of video games.

"In the old days, a video game could

be developed by a couple of computer programmers and a dream. Modern game development, however, requires an interdisciplinary team," Thornton said.

Students will enter the course with ideas of what type of game they want to create. Thornton will then choose the best of these initial ideas and divide the class into teams.

If an idea is more graphic-based, artistic students will be assigned. If music is an important element of the idea, students with musical abilities

will be assigned.

"Our goal is to assemble such teams from students who have skills in creative writing, art, music, theater, psychology, marketing and computer science. After that, we let them develop ideas and hope they create something amazing," Thornton said.

Because the course will not cover implementation, students will not have a completely finished product at the course's conclusion.

However, students will leave the class with an impressive

project that they can include in their portfolios.

Though the course is offered by the computer science department, students of any major are welcome to enroll in the course. The only prerequisites are CS 201 and 102.

Another game design course, CS 439, will also be offered as a follow-up, but it will only be available to computer science majors.

Gaming, from page 1

with a 60 GB hard drive as opposed to the 20 GB in the basic unit. The premium also has built-in Wi-Fi.

The PS3 uses a new format called Blu-ray and is the only console that supports it at this time. Blu-ray can hold much more data than a standard DVD.

The console also uses the Cell microprocessor, which is a technology that will soon appear in television sets. Sony, IBM and Toshiba joined together to create Cell.

The console also uses a controller called SIXAXIS which uses Bluetooth wireless and features six degrees of motion-sensing control.

The Playstation online service is similar to Microsoft's "Xbox Live" but does not require a fee on most games. Developers have the opportunity to set a fee on particular games if they wish.

Sony will also make game demos as well as premium content available on their network, much like Microsoft does. They also will make hit Playstation and Playstation 2 games available for download for a small price.

The PS3 library of games is pretty strong, but many of them

The controller is designed to put you in full control of whatever situation the game you are playing calls for.

The Wii launched on Nov. 19 for a retail price of \$249. As opposed to the other two systems, this is the only package available. It comes with a Wii console, remote, nunchuk attachment and a copy of the game *Wii Sports*.

The current lineup of games

The most recent numbers report just over 6 million consoles sold worldwide.

The 360 is focused on providing cutting-edge gameplay with photo-realistic graphics.

Armed with 512 MB of RAM, the 360 has no problem in providing graphics that are nothing short of astounding.

However, gamers will want to have a television or monitor that supports high definition in order to get the best quality of picture.

The 360 is offered in both a core and a premium package.

The core package retails for \$299 and comes with the Xbox 360 unit and a wired controller.

The premium package retails for \$399 and comes with the Xbox 360 unit, a 20 GB hard drive, a wireless controller and component cables. The core unit can be upgraded to match a premium unit.

Xbox Live, Microsoft's online service, is back and better than

them.

The problem lies in paying for "premium" content on games that have already been bought for full retail price. Most gamers feel that this should be available for no additional cost.

Games are the prime element in the success of a system, and the Xbox 360 has many great titles already available.

Gears of War by Epic Games is the landmark title in the 360 arsenal and will almost surely be nominated for Game of the Year, by many publications.

Gears puts you in control of Marcus Fenix as you try to eliminate the threat of the Locust Horde.

The future for the 360 looks promising with many great games headed our way in the near future.

Lost Planet, *Crackdown* and *Forza Motorsport 2* are three highly-anticipated games in the first quarter of 2007.

The flagship game will be *Halo 3* which is due to arrive next November. A *Halo 3* multiplayer demo is planned to go on the Marketplace in late spring.

The holiday season will definitely help shape the future of these consoles.

The 360 has had a year's

OPINION

Tickle Me Annoyed



By Kevin Jeffers
The Chanticleer
News Editor

I can still hear him laughing.

Hard to believe it was only ten years ago this Christmas when I met him, the thing that would ultimately destroy my faith in the season for giving... nay, my faith in mankind. It was only ten years ago when I met him.

And now he's back.

It has only been ten years since I met my sister's Tickle-Me Elmo.

I was a happy-go-lucky young lad, strapping some would even say. Without a care in the world, I was. And I loved Christmas as much as the next child

To this day, I am not sure how my mother averted certain death and was able to find one for her. I don't think it's a topic she likes to discuss.

The laughing started that chilly Christmas morning all over the house, and it did not stop for months.

It was almost two years, actually, that I had to endure, "That tickles!" in that ridiculous falsetto that was supposed to be cute.

It was so cute I wanted to puke.

It was I, not the doll, who had the last laugh. One night, I could take the giggling and the tickling no more. Then my... um... dog... kind of took care of it for me.

My sister never did forgive that dog for the murder of Elmo Jeffers. It was quite

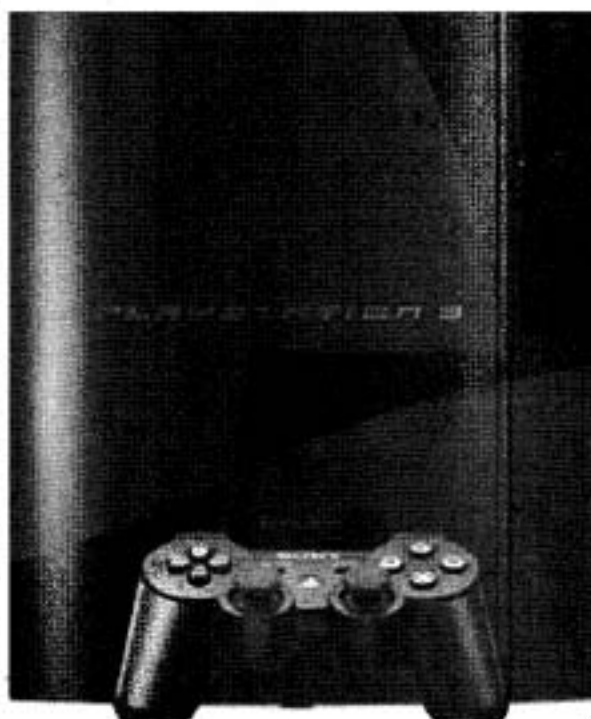


Photo courtesy www.sony.com

for the Wii is somewhat lackluster, but there are plenty of qual-

for a small price.

The PS3 library of games is pretty strong, but many of them have been available on the Xbox 360 for a while.

The flagship game for the console is *Resistance: Fall of Man* by Insomniac Games. *Resistance* is a first-person shooter that takes place in a world in which several events such as World War II did not occur. The game also supports up to 40 people in online multiplayer.

The PS3 will have a slow start due to availability but should make a strong surge towards the top over the next year. *Final Fantasy XIII* and *Metal Gear Solid 4* are two highly-anticipated games that are exclusive to the PS3 at the moment. These two titles alone should push the system in the right direction.

Nintendo is once again trying to innovate the gaming world by introducing its newest console, the Wii.

The Wii is very different from its competitors in that Nintendo is aiming to attract both hardcore gamers as well as people that have never picked up a controller before.

Nintendo wants gamers to be completely immersed in the games they play. A special controller, dubbed the "Wii Remote," allows gamers to do just that.

This controller will recognize hand movements as well as the normal button presses. It also vibrates and includes a speaker.

If you are playing a golf game, then you can use the Wii remote like a golf club to hit the ball.

for the Wii is somewhat lackluster, but there are plenty of quality games on the way.

The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess is the current killer app for the system.

The newest game in arguably the greatest gaming series of all time, *Twilight Princess* is reason enough for many gamers to go out and buy a Wii now. The game is an instant classic and will surely garner Game of the Year honors from many publications.

The future looks extremely bright for Nintendo over the next year as they plan to fight their way back to the top of the market.

Metroid Prime 3: Corruption, *Super Mario Galaxy* and *Super Smash Bros. Brawl* are just some of the games that will be available on Wii next year.

Nintendo is also offering an iTunes-style store dubbed the Virtual Console.

Here you will be able to download your favorite games from previous consoles for a small fee. Nintendo expects to add up to 10 games each month and had 12 games available the day the system launched.

The Wii is already getting praise from technology experts. *Popular Science* gave the console its grand award for the best new product in home entertainment. The magazine recognized the Wii for its innovative controls that set the system apart from the competition.

The Xbox 360 launched just over a year ago and has had a very successful campaign so far.

mium unit. *Xbox Live*, Microsoft's online service, is back and better than ever. The service was split into two categories when it moved to the 360.

The silver subscription is free and will allow you to access a friends list as well as the newly created *Xbox Live Marketplace*.

The gold subscription has a fee and is needed if you wish to play your games online.

The *Marketplace* has been active for over a year now and has had mixed results from the gaming community. It is a place in which gamers can download demos, classic games from years past or even updates to games they have already purchased.

Many people enjoy the fact that they can download demos to test games before they buy

definitely help shape the future of these consoles.

The 360 has had a year's advantage over the other two and should be available in much higher quantities than the two newest systems this Christmas season.

The PS3 will sell well on reputation alone, but the quantity of units will definitely continue to cause problems for shoppers across the nation.

The Wii is very affordable when compared to the other systems, and the Nintendo name will help move units this holiday season while supplies last.

The console war is just beginning, and it will be an interesting and fun battle to the finish.

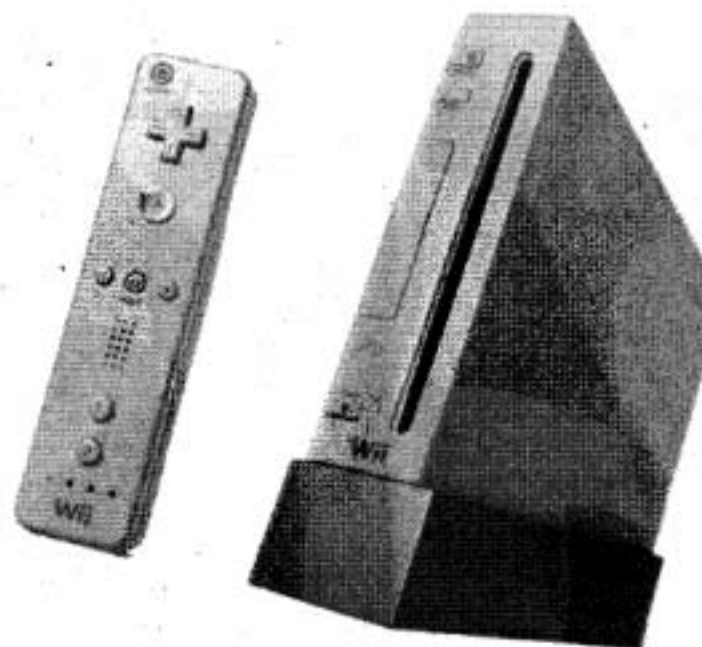


Photo courtesy www.nintendo.com

care in the world, I was. And I loved Christmas as much as the next child.

I remember this Christmas well, almost too well. The Christmas of '96: I finally got a TV for my room, so it was no more shoving my brother and sister out of the way to watch *Salute Your Shorts* reruns whenever I wanted to.

This should have been my happiest Christmas to date. Then, he was unwrapped.

Let us backtrack. Tickle-Me-Elmo was not just a popular toy that Christmastime. It was the must-have item of the century. It was as if this fuzzy, red laughing thing cured cancer or something.

Tickle-Me-Elmo hung the moon as far as kids were concerned.

And the parents... the poor, suffering parents who were forced to get this thing for their kids. Ridiculously long lines of murderous parents across the country all with one purpose: get this stupid doll for my kid so he/she will love me.

Of course at age 13, I was way too old and mature for such a dumb toy. I got my TV, and I was happy. My ten-year-old sister, however, was not as refined as I was in the ways of novelty toys. She had to have Tickle-Me Elmo.

My sister never did forgive that dog for the murder of Elmo Jeffers. It was quite tragic. Almost. This is a good point to mention that I never had a pet I loved more than that dog Dakota. So pretty, so smart that dog was.

Now, however, the laughing is back.

TMX, they call him. The 10th anniversary edition of the toy everybody loved. And this time, he is more inappropriate than ever.

This Elmo rolls around the on the freaking floor like there is no greater joy in the world than to have someone poking you in places that no one should ever poke. At least not a children's toy anyway.

And he is cuter than ever, I hear.

TMX sounds like the next in the line of Terminator movies to me. I take it as sure of a sign of the Apocalypse as anything else I have ever seen.

While I no longer live with my sister, who is now age 20, I only hope she has come to terms with the tragedy and is staying away from the madness that is once again this year's hottest item for kids.

And I can only hope the rest of mankind will also learn this lesson soon, before it is too late and TMX takes over the world.

THE CHANTICLEER

Serving Jacksonville and the University community since 1934.

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The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in Room 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address at left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantnews@yahoo.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous, defamatory, or submitted anonymously. Letters may be edited for style, brevity, or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

WHAT DO YOU
WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS?



Jessica Summe
Editor-in-Chief

"I want a snarfblat."



Kevin Jeffers
News Editor

"All I wanna do is zoom-a-zoom zoom zoom and a boom boom... and Natalie Portman please thanks."

Day in the Life: Santa Claus

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer
Features Editor



With the upcoming holiday season, Santa Claus is one very busy and important man who millions of children count on every year to make a stop at their home.

Although he never seems to have enough time, Claus, through both lots of practice and hard work, makes use of various time zones and just a little bit of magic to ensure that he is always able to surprise the children on Christmas morning.

Moving very quickly, thanks again to his magical powers, both Claus and his little elves are very busy bees all throughout the year.

Between making toys for all the good girls and boys, and taking care of his favorite four-legged friends, his reindeers, Claus gets very little downtime.

One thing he really enjoys in his off season is traveling with his wife, Jessica Mary (named after the mother of Jesus) Claus.

"Mrs. Claus and I like to vacation after the holiday season. Last summer we visited New Zealand, parts of Europe and the Florida Keys," said Claus. "Having a small vacation makes getting back to the grind not quite so demanding for such an important figure."

"Elves have a special way of keeping an eye on everyone for me. Sometimes they can be caught watching, but only if a person is very fast and very good," said Claus.

They also help him by keeping his naughty and nice lists updated.

The elves make life much easier by making many of the toys that Claus delivers each year. Since there are babies being born every day, there is really no accurate way to keep up with the amount of toys made.

"The real important point is that each toy is made and given with lots of love," said Claus.

Obviously, his favorite time of year is the holiday season, but one year in particular really stands out for the jolly old elf.

"1996 was a great year to make deliveries



Photo illustration by Dave Dillion

For those few people that have seen Santa Claus, he is usually described as a jolly old elf.

with the full moon on Christmas Eve. It had been a very long time since I'd seen one of those on Christmas Eve and it was beautiful," he remembered.

Many children believe that it would be great to have Claus come down their chimney every day, but there are several reasons that it could not be possible.

"The reindeer and I come on Christmas eve to celebrate Christmas – the birthday of Jesus. Plus, it takes a whole year to get everything ready for just one very special night. I don't think it would be quite as special if Christmas was celebrated every day," said Claus. "Plus, I don't think I could eat near as many treats if Christmas was celebrated all the time!"

Speaking of his love for treats, Claus isn't too picky when it comes to what treats children leave out for him. Usually he prefers that the child pick their favorite type of cookie or snack for him. The one thing he does not really like is buttermilk.

"Mrs. Claus prefers me to drink cold fat-free milk because it is better for me, but I like to

drink all kinds, except buttermilk. I will use it in cakes, but that is about it," said Claus.

One thing Claus does not want to do is end up sick around Christmastime, so he and the elves try to take the proper precautions.

"Occasionally some of us get the flu, but we almost always get flu shots to avoid getting sick. There have been some close calls -- as you might have seen on television, but everyone here loves Christmas so much that we all work extra hard to make sure that Christmas is as fun and special as it is supposed to be," said Claus.

Though there are many secrets that surround Claus and his chosen occupation, he believes that it's a good idea to not share everything.

"I like to keep a few things secret so that I can always surprise the kids I am visiting," he shared. "All I will say is that I use a little magic but I will always find a way to be there!"

[Editors note: This article was inspired by www.santaclaus.com website. Many thanks go to the site for its entertainment value and holiday spirit.]



Toni Merriss
Features Editor

"I want to feel the
wind in my hair... on
yacht, and a laptop!"



Chris Lundy
Sports Editor

"All I want is SLEEP!"



Summer Hunt
Copy Editor

"I want a Tickle-Me
Kevin Jeffers. Please."

Finding the meaning of the holidays

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

The scent of peppermint candy canes and the earthy smell of pine trees tickle your nose as the holiday season jumps into full swing. Elves dance around in brightly contrasting outfits, complete with the red and white striped stockings and pointy-toed shoes, constantly humming their favorite holiday tunes. Churches of all denominations prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, some with plays depicting the story of his unusual beginnings.

But what is the true spirit of this widely-celebrated holiday? Is it the shopping sprees? The tree decorating?

One common theme is the feeling that enters into a person as December 25th approaches. It's that warm feeling that entices people to donate clothes, canned goods and even hard-earned money.

It's that feeling has people baking cookies for those they barely know, just to share the contagious holiday spirit that seems to move from one person to another faster than the also famous holiday flu.

It's not Santa Claus the man, but Santa Claus, the spirit of the holidays, the spirit of not the gift-getting but the gift-giving.

For *The Chanticleer* staff, the holidays mean many things: spending time with family, a much needed break from everyday life, "that Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat", and for one staff member, a winter solstice and birthday celebration.

But for those who aren't the gift-giving sort, remember: There's always Festivus. It's Festivus for the rest of us!

'Twas the week before finals

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer Features Editor

'Twas the week before finals and all through the school,
students were studying, except those who were too cool.
The tests were all prepped by the teachers with hope,
that everyone was prepared and able to cope.

Students were waiting and huddled in the dorms,
crossing their fingers, for they would soon be filling out graduation forms.

Ah, that exciting time in a collegiate's career
when fun and games are over, and real life is almost here.

Days of formals and house parties will soon be past,
everyone should take advantage and make their memories last.

Tailgating outside the stadium of Paul Snow
Always having a good time but never enough dough.

The late-night food runs and the early morning class
For some, the hopes that they would just pass.
Ladies' Night at Brothers or even the Rusty Nail
But if you're drinking, no driving - or else you'll go to jail.

Of course, for those who are not ready to leave college,
grad school is an option to obtain much more knowledge.

The classes are more difficult; yes, this is true.
But it puts off, for a while, saying adieu.

There are those students who cannot wait to get out,
and they know where they are going, of that there is no doubt.
They have a job in their major, with benefits galore.
With good reason, they cannot wait to get their foot in the door.

For all of the graduates, those staying and those going,
we wish you luck in your experience of growing.
Although we will miss you, we would like to say:
Congratulations to all, it is finally your day!

Renaissance Man on Campus

By E.O. Smith
The Chanticleer Staff Reporter

In today's society, multi-taskers are easy to find, but it's hard to find someone that has it down to a science as much as JSU alumni Cory Tucker.

In his time at JSU, Tucker managed to play a big role on the baseball team while still making time to complete his exercise science and wellness degree. His 3.82 GPA upon graduation can attest to that. In what little free time he had, he really got to work towards his ultimate dream of being a musician.

"I really got into guitar because every male in my family plays it," said Tucker. He first began playing at the age of ten, by learning everything

from his father.

Ironically, one thing his father did not teach him was how to read music.

"I learn most of my songs from listening to them over and over," said Tucker. "While most people are watching movies and television, I watch artists play."

Although most of the songs he currently plays are covers, he does have original music.

"There are times I drive with my radio off and sing to myself," said Tucker. Never knowing when an idea will hit, Tucker carries a tape recorder with him in his car. When he does come up with something, he records it. Being prepared is always a good idea, because the one idea that was forgotten might have been the one to seal the deal.

"My goal is to develop my own style," said Tucker.

Each time he takes the stage he gets a rush of adrenaline and excitement because he enjoys being on stage.

Tucker would rather play in front of strangers, because if he knows you, he wants to do well because he knows you are listening.

As he has grown older, his passion for music has grown as well. He has written seven of his own songs, with several more awaiting finishing touches.

"My inspiration comes from everything around me, from my family to the sunset

at the beach," said Tucker. He already has one CD out but has currently been working on a new release. That record will be a double treat, with not only a collection of his own work but also some of the more popular cover songs he plays. It is set to be released in mid-January 2007.

"There was a guitar I wanted from the first time I saw it, which was about six or seven years ago," said Tucker. The guitar was like the ever elusive unicorn – every time he got close to it, it was always just out of his reach.

Last May, once again, he walked in a store and saw his guitar, but it was already marked sold.

Later that night, the night of his first ever performance, he finally caught his unicorn. The guitar he had seen earlier that day had actually been purchased by his father to surprise him for his gig that night.

Although that particular guitar is still his favorite, he now owns a total of 14 guitars, two electric and 12 acoustic.

As a student, Tucker spent a lot of time studying and working for that GPA he greatly deserved. During a career day field trip as a junior in high school, physical therapy really sparked his interest. For the remainder of his high school days and all through college he spent his summers working in an out-patient clinic. Tucker's goal is to someday be a director of a clinic.

Tucker will soon know if all his hard work and dedication has paid off. He is awaiting a decision to be

made by the board of the physical therapy school. He feels pretty good about his chances since he has already made it through the first cut, which went from 300 applicants down to 75.

Being a JSU baseball player is comparable to having a full time job without weekends off. At a young age Tucker realized baseball was his best sport. Playing a big part on the baseball team and trying to study made it almost impossible for Tucker to play the guitar.

Somehow, some way, Tucker found a way to do it all. Whether it was studying on the bus or holding closed door concerts in hotels, he always made it work.

After his junior season Tucker realized he had taken enough time with baseball and it was time to grow up and pursue the things he was truly passionate about.

As a freshman in college he red-shirted, sitting out to turn around his sophomore year and start in the first round of a NCAA regional tournament.

During his hectic times the biggest stress reliever for Tucker was playing the guitar. When his brain needed a break from the complicated physics calculations, the anatomy vocabu-



Photo Courtesy of Cory Tucker

Cory Tucker regularly performs in his hometown of Rome, Ga. at the Prickly Pear.

lary and the everyday commitment of baseball, the guitar was his escape.

"It was hard to make time for everything. School always came first, then baseball, and finally guitar," said Tucker. "Now, I am trying to get into physical therapy school but I am playing a lot more. It is really exciting."

If you would more information or to hear an example of Tucker's talent you can find him at www.myspace.com/corytucker10 or just head to Brother's Bar on December 16. He will be taking the stage at 8 p.m.



Photo by Eric Beck

Cory Tucker performed at The Rusty Nail in front of many fans and friends.

JSU Film Society Presents: Casino Royale

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

It's that time again. The time when action fans around the world begin getting excited, when movie buffs start spouting out random knowledge (cough me cough), and when Aston Martin's stock starts going up. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, it's Bond time. But this time it's different. For the past 20 years, audiences have been seeing Bond movies that are stuffed

own the DVD box set. My list of favorite Bonds goes from Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Pierce Brosnan, Timothy Dalton, and then George Lazenby. So when this one was announced, I was skeptical. However, after seeing this movie, I think I'm going to be changing my list of favorite Bonds.

Daniel Craig brings not only a new attitude to the Bond franchise, but brings back a style that has long since been forgotten in action films...fighting. In the last few movies, Bond has relied heavily on gadgets and do-dads to fight his enemies and spend less time actually doing anything cool looking

beating him in a poker game almost seems feasible. For once, I enjoyed it.

Now, the car. In *Casino Royale*, Bond drives the brand new Aston Martin DBS which, might I say, is a very sexy automobile. Unlike almost every movie previous, this one contains almost no special features, only a first-aid kit complete with defibrillator. The second most notable scene featuring the DBS is when it breaks the Guinness World Record for most cannon rolls in a car.

Martin's stock starts going up. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, it's Bond time. But this time it's different. For the past 20 years, audiences have been seeing Bond movies that are stuffed full of gadgetry goodness, from laser watches to exploding pens, cloaking cars and exploding toothpaste, the crazier the better. The plots have become bigger, grander and more dangerous throughout the years, with James saving the world from nuclear war at least four times (*Tomorrow Never Dies*, *Die Another Day*, *Never Say Never*, *Thunderball*), tracking murderous Russian drug smugglers (*The Living Daylights*), killing multi-nippled assassins (*Man With the Golden Gun*) and stopping what could be the greatest bank robberies ever (*Goldfinger*, *Goldeneye*).

But this time, it was different. New Bond, new villain, new style. Oh, where to begin?

I think I'll start by mentioning that I'm a big 007 fan. I spend every Thanksgiving glued to Spike TV watching the James Bond marathon over and over again -- and I already

gotten in action films...fighting. In the last few movies, Bond has relied heavily on gadgets and do-dads to fight his enemies and spends less time actually doing anything cool-looking without an explosion behind him. This movie has almost no explosions, no ridiculous car chases and zero submarines or space ships. The movie spends almost the entire time on the ground, where there is constant hand-to-hand combat, a constantly intensifying plot, and a chase scene so insane it's almost superhuman. There are only two major gun battles, both of which are intense, death-defying pieces of strategic cinematic genius.

Now, here's the one thing that almost turned me away from the movie.

Poker.

I don't know anything about poker, and I certainly don't like watching it on television. Alas, poker is an integral part of this movie, woven seamlessly into the plot. However, when you think about it, the idea of stopping a terrorist by

DBS is when it breaks the Guinness World Record for most cannon rolls in a car.

I'll say no more, go see it yourself.

Now, on to what every guy in the theatre had their eyes on -- the Bond Girl. Vesper Lynd, played by the luscious Eva Green, was James's new female counterpart. Assigned to Bond from the treasury department, her job is to "keep an eye on her majesty's money, and off your perfectly formed ass," as she explains. Green plays the part with a strong, yet innocent grace of a young woman who is new to the field and yet not willing to cling to this man she's been sent to watch. She plays the part remarkably well, with the poise only the French seem to possess.

So there you have it. All in all, I'd have to give *Casino Royale* five stars. I can only hope that from here, the franchise follows the path it has laid out for itself and continues to adhere to the old school formula that has been injected into this masterpiece.

Walden: not the same old pond

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer
Features Editor



For many young adults, college is the first experience of truly being on one's own. It can be a confusing time full of doubts and a genuine need to find one's self.

Walden, the first novel from author Michael Dolan, follows one young man on his journey to establish his individuality. Walden Walden XVI has lived in the shadows of his family members for as long as he can remember. He isn't ever really allowed any escape upon entering college -- he attends the same university that all the Waldens have attended for centuries before him.

If there was ever a story of a predetermined path with no thought of how the actual person would respond, *Walden* is it.

With ancestors dating back to the very first graduating class at the university and one of whom even wrote the schools' alma mater, there is a lot of pressure put on Walden by both his family and the faculty to excel just as every other Walden has done before him.

Sometimes going to extremes just to try to break his family mold, Walden acts out and quite often makes a person wonder if he can tell the difference between real life and his dreams. From freeing the soon-to-be dissected lab pigeons to setting the university library on fire, Walden is headed down a one-way street with little hope of a very necessary U-turn.

The one bright light in his otherwise dark tunnel of a life is Brooke, who is more than a friend but not quite his girlfriend, around whom he feels most comfortable. Brooke represents everything that Walden could possibly see in his future.

Never being the type of person to see the glass half-full, Walden somehow finds a way to mess up every opportunity he is ever given in his life. Not only that, but he also resents the fact that he was even given a chance to mess it up.

Walden views his life as more of a curse than a blessing, and quite often he gives the impression that he truly has no aspirations other than to not be the typical Walden success story.

The drama all comes to a head when Walden takes a drastic step to set himself apart from his well-known and respected family, once again baffling his father who sees no problem with his high level of expectations for young Walden.

Walden has more twists and turns than a roller coaster, not to mention the multiple double-meanings spread throughout the novel. Readers will finish the book knowing that even though things can get rough, it could always be worse.

At least you are not Walden Walden XVI. Now that kid has it rough.

For more information on *Walden* or to order your own copy, visit www.conversari.com.

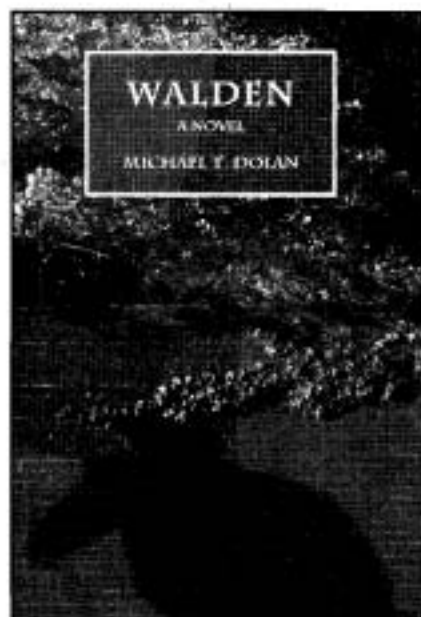


Photo Courtesy of Michael Dolan and Conversari

Walden, by Michael Dolan.

Without God, it's a vicious circle.

In a world too often ruled by war, hunger, disease and inhumanity, our church believes there is hope. Join us and grow in the faith and fellowship of Jesus Christ.



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The Episcopal Church at JSU
One block east of the Square in Jacksonville
Holy Communion Sunday Night @ 7 o'clock
Supper and fellowship @ 7:30
All are welcome! 435-9271

Seeing Double...

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State volleyball team went into the Ohio Valley Conference tournament with the top seed and came out with the championship hardware.

The Gamecocks (24-4, 18-0 OVC), who also cleaned house for individual and team awards, swept the Southeast Missouri State University Redhawks (16-18, 8-8) in the championship game after taking care of the Morehead State (20-12, 10-6) in the semifinal round.

The Redhawks surprised after barely squeaking into the tournament then beating the third-seeded Murray State Racers (19-8, 11-6) and the second-seeded Tennessee State Tigers (20-14, 12-5).

But they did not have enough in the tank to face the Gamecocks.

On Friday, Nov. 17, the Gamecocks came out gunning after patiently waiting their turn.

Even after waiting for the second round after clinching a bye in the first round, the Gamecocks were not rusty.

In the first game, the Gamecocks put up a total of 18 kills while holding the Eagles to only 13.

First team All-Conference and OVC Player of the Year Abbey Breit hit half of her 16 kills in the first game alone.

The Gamecocks kept the momentum in game two, but it was still an even match. JSU would not let up as it opened the game scoring eight straight on Breit's serving skills. The Eagles fought hard to get back in the game.

Although Morehead outkilled Jacksonville State 19-14 in the second game, it was not enough to stop the Gamecocks from winning 30-26.

Game three could have gone either way. Riding the back of Breit and senior middle blocker Joi Watts, the Gamecocks put up 15 kills while holding the Eagles to 11.

The final points of the third game gave



Seniors Joi Watts and Emily Withers attempt to block a shot during the tournament championship game versus Southeast Missouri. Both Watts and Withers were members of the All-tournament team, with Withers earning the MVP honors for 2006.

coming out and taking care of business," head coach Rick Nold said. "Southeast Missouri deserved to be here. They came in with confidence, and we have to find a way to take care of their weapons."

The matchup on Saturday, Nov. 18, resembled a boxing match. The Redhawks, who handed the Gamecocks their only match loss in the regular season, tried to use their momentum for an upset. The game was tense, but neither team let up at any point in the game.

Game one for both teams was a balanced attack. JSU barely won in the kills department 14-13 and held on to win the first game 30-25.

The second game was tougher for both sides and they went into overtime.

JSU kept their composure, outkilling the Redhawks 17-12 and winning the

earned the right to represent the OVC in the NCAA tournament.

"We came in as the favorite, and having the crowd behind us really made a difference," Nold said.

"In a game like this, whoever could handle the pressure had the advantage to win the game. The girls did a great job and I'm really proud of them."

Winning the season and the tournament earned the Gamecocks numerous accolades. Freshman outside hitter Brittney Whitten earned several awards: All-Newcomer selection, second team All-Conference, and Freshman of the year.

In addition to winning OVC Player of the Year, Breit is also a member of the first team All-Conference team along with teammate and tournament MVP Emily

The Gamecocks will travel to the University of Tennessee's Stokely Athletics Center for the second year in a row for the NCAA tournament on Friday, Dec. 1 to face the San Diego Toreros at 4 p.m. central time.

Last year, JSU lost to the Tennessee Lady Vols 3-0. This year, if the Gamecocks win against the West Coast Conference regular season champions, they will advance to face the winner of Friday evening's game that will see the Lady Vols and the Duke Blue Devils square off.

Saturday's game is set to start at 3 p.m. CT.

Both the Gamecocks and the Toreros (24-5, 14-1 West Coast Conference) seem to be evenly matched. The battle will fall on the shoulders of Nold, the OVC Coach of the Year, and the WCC Coach of the Year Brent Hilliard, who is currently serving on an interim basis for head coach Jennifer Petrie.

The game will also see conference players of year in Breit and Torero senior outside hitter Kristen Carlson. Having the experience at the Stokely Athletics Center, the JSU might have the slight advantage.

"We've been there before, so we're more comfortable than going somewhere we've never been," said the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America 2nd team selection player. "We're just going to take it one game at a time."

Being in a comfortable setting has its advantages. Being close to home is another mark in the advantage column for the Gamecocks.

"We're used to the environment because we've been there before," Nold said. "We'll get a gameplan set and get ready to go. The location is another factor. It's a place our fans can get to, and we expect to have a good crowd like last year."

The Gamecocks will be ready for a tough match, but to keep their streak alive they have to face either the Lady Vols or

15 kills while holding the Eagles to 11.

The final points of the third game gave the win to JSU 30-26, which meant they were headed to the championship match.

No longer waiting, the Gamecocks faced a tough SEMO team Saturday afternoon.

"We were unsure on how to handle the waiting, but we did a good job of

sides and they went into overtime.

JSU kept their composure, outkilling the Redhawks 17-12 and winning the overtime bout 31-29.

Game three was all Gamecocks.

Although the Redhawks tied the game, JSU kept their composure and did not get rattled. JSU barely outkilled SEMO 16-14, but they won the game 30-24 and

the Year, Breit is also a member of the first team All-Conference team along with teammate and tournament MVP Emily Withers. Breit and Withers were joined by Watts as a member of the All-Tournament team.

For his impressive undefeated 16-0 regular season, Nold was named OVC Coach of the Year.

tough match, but to keep their streak alive they have to face either the Lady Vols or the Devils and a chance to play for the national title Dec. 16 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Qwest Center.

Panthers pounce on Gamecocks

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Panthers of Georgia State deflated an early win streak by the Gamecocks on Nov. 25, when they handed coach Becky Geyer her first home loss of the seasons 78-67.

"I think overall we played well," said Geyer. "We just had a little lapse in the second half that gave them easy buckets, which gave them some confidence, and they had a lot of easy transition points."

The easy transition points sparked a 16-2 run for the Panthers (2-4), starting just under 10 minutes left in the game and ending with five and a half minutes left to play.

"We're a young team," said Geyer. "We don't have one particular person that is our go-to-person, and there's nothing wrong with that, but our kids need to take the open shots when they get them."

The Gamecocks struggled most the game, but still managed to keep the game tied at the half. The Panthers battled

JSU hard in the opening minutes, pushing a 9-0 run and a 14-8 lead. The Gamecocks pulled within three halfway through the quarter, then tied the game at 21 to take away the upper hand from Georgia State.

With just over eight minutes left, both teams played see-saw with the scoreboard, changing leads seven times and trying the game twice. The 35-35 halftime score kept both teams in the running to win the game.

The second half belonged to the Panthers. Both teams came back out to exchange baskets, but JSU could only tie the Panthers and never regained the lead after a 47-47 score with over 12 minutes left in the game. The 16-2, led by Panther center Marcquitta McKeller, put Georgia State in a comfortable 70-53 lead with less than five minutes left in the game.

McKeller, one of the catalysts of the run, led four Panther players with 21 points.

Freshman forward Jolie Efezokhae put up a team and career-high points, earning OVC Freshman Player of the Week honors. She led three players in double-digit scoring, but it still was not enough to beat Georgia State.

Although JSU has been losing of late, the Gamecocks opened the season in a comfortable fashion.

Hosting the Georgia Southern Eagles (2-5) on Nov. 15, JSU had to stay on its toes and remain calm. Geyer's team did just that, putting up a 17-0 that stretched from just over 13 minutes to under 10 minutes left in the first half. The Eagles would not let up, closing the gap at halftime to pull within five points, 39-35.

Georgia Southern came out in the second half ready to dominate the Gamecocks. Both teams battled back and forth the keep the lead, but the Eagles took it away from JSU. Although the Eagles did not lead more than four points, they kept

going back and forth until the final minutes of the second half. A 3-pointer by sophomore guard Ashley Boykin put the Gamecocks up 70-69 with 4:05 left on the clock, and JSU refused to give the lead back to Georgia Southern.

Boykin led a double digit trio that included her and guards LaTonya McKinney and Courtney Slaughter with 27 points. The Eagles were led by guard Tiffany Brown, who had 20 points on the night.

With the early wins and the recent losses, Geyer and the Gamecocks come back to host Samford and Tennessee-Martin on Dec. 7 and 9.

Geyer hopes to have her players ready to open the conference on a good note, and continue that stretch during their 6-game holiday hoopfest.

"We want to be ready by the time conference comes," said Geyer. "Nothing good is easy, and it's going to take time and we're going to keep working."



Photo by Chris Lundy

JSU women's basketball coaches Becky Geyer, Brad Durchslag, Jamie Kellerman and Gerlonda Hardin talk to the ladies during one of the timeouts.

"We want to be ready by the time conference comes. Nothing good is easy, and it's going to take time and we're going to keep working."
-Becky Geyer-

UMASS KICKING

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Gamecocks took a rough loss on Saturday, Nov. 25, when they faced Atlantic-10 powerhouse UMASS, who handed them a 100-69.

The Gamecocks (1-3) never saw a tie or lead during the game, but saw a lot of Minutemen (12-1) Gary Forbes, Stephane Lasme and Rashaun Freeman.

Led by Forbes' 20-point game, UMASS had seven players with double-digit scoring efforts and two players with double doubles.

JSU battled throughout the entire game, putting three players in the double-digit category and one player with a double double.

"You get a chance to see this level," said LaPlante. "If we're fortunate enough as a team to reach the NCAA tournament, that's the kind of team you're going to see in the first round, dominant and physical."

The Gamecocks tried to stay within reach of the Minutemen, but they were too forceful on the boards and in transition.

UMASS opened up the game 18-2 off of strong rebounding and quick jumpers by Lasme and Forbes.

Sophomore guard DeAndre Bray, standing 5'6 and defending two 6'2 UMASS guards, Tiki Mayben and Ricky Harris, sparked the Gamecocks on both sides of the ball. Harris brought the ball down to his waist, and Bray reacted by knocking the ball off of his hands to give Crow possession of the ball.

Later in the half, with Bray standing at the top of the key, put a crossover on Harris, forcing him to jump to the left as Bray went right, then hitting Bradley down low with a no look pass. Halfway through the first period, Bray came off of a screen to find freshman forward

Amadou Mbodji on the alley oop. Even with the play of Bray in the first half, the spark was not enough to catch up with the Minutemen, who led by as much as 24 in the first half.

UMASS would take a 47-28 lead into halftime, and push the 19-point lead even further coming out in the second half.

The Minutemen were not prepared to handle the attack of the Gamecocks during the first part of the second half. At the midway point, JSU closed the lead to within 13 points, giving them a chance to make the game a battle for the closing parts of the half. UMASS was too strong though, and pushed the lead up to as much as 35 in the last one minute and a half.

The Gamecocks took the loss as a learning experience, hoping to use this as a tool for conference play.

"They're a good team, but we can play at that level," said Brown. "Playing this game lets us know we can win the OVC and maybe go further than that."

The Gamecocks have started off rough with a 1-3 record, but with in-state rival Samford coming into town on Dec. 7, JSU has its hopes set on a conference win.

LaPlante and the Gamecocks have had some close calls during their first four games, including a last second miss by guard Will Ginn to fall to the Wofford Terriers (4-3, 0-1 Southern Conference) 82-80 on Nov. 18. Wofford guard Shane Nichols went 7-for-9 at the free throw line, making seven of eight in the last one minute and a half.

Nichols led the Terriers with 24 points, while two other players were in double digits. The Gamecocks were led by Bradley and Brown, who both put up double doubles.

Bradley led all scorers with 31 points followed by Brown making 24 points. Both players had 11 rebounds apiece, but the factor for the Gamecocks were the

turnovers.

"We did not have that many turnovers," said LaPlante. "They were just untimely, and that cost us the game."

The Gamecocks were in the game until the last few minutes of the second half. With roughly five minutes left, junior guard Erik Adams got a quick steal, dishing the

ball to sophomore guard DeAndre Bray, who found Bradley to cut the lead to 68-67.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Terrier senior forward Matt O'Connor hit a 3-pointer to put Wofford up 75-69, but Bradley came back with a quick spin move and put the ball off the glass to make it 75-71. Down the stretch, the free throws by Nichols were too much for the Gamecocks.

On Nov. 21, JSU put up a monster game, shutting down the Reinhardt Eagles (8-4) by 23 points, 95-72. Led by Bradley's 23 points, the Gamecocks had three other players in double digits. The Eagles were led by freshman guard Brenden Slotter with 18 points, but having three players in the double-digit scoring area was not enough to beat the red and white.

The Eagles attempted to keep the score close during the first few minutes of the game, but the Gamecocks ran away with



Photo by Chris Lundy

JSU Men's Basketball head coach Mike LaPlante goes over the game plan with his team. The Gamecocks will continue to look for Dorian Brown and Courtney Bradley, but expect players like Will Ginn and Erik Adams to step it up as they enter Ohio Valley Conference play.

a 10-0 run at the midpoint of the first half. JSU led by as much as 22 during the first half, but took an 18-point lead into halftime 53-35.

The defense kept Reinhardt down as the team shot 13-for-34 on field goals, but Jacksonville State converted 22 of 37 field goals against the Eagles.

LaPlante's team did not slow down in the second half, coming out with an early 9-2 run, which put them up by 25 points. Later in the half, the Gamecocks put a 12-0 run on the Eagles, increasing their lead by as much as 31 points during.

Bradley's impressive run, along with a balanced team attack, was too much for Reinhardt to come back.

LaPlante and the Gamecocks will open up conference play on Dec. 7 and 9, when they host in-state rival Samford and UT-Martin, respectively. Gametime is set for 7:30 in both games.

Rapid fire helps rifle team win Gamecock Invitational

The Jacksonville State University rifle team shot a season high aggregate score of 4,677 to give them the outright victory of the Gamecock Invitational from Nov. 17-19.

The Gamecocks shot an aggregate of 2,378 in Air Rifle, the highest score shot by an NCAA team this season.

Junior Joseph Hall, a native of Carrollton, Ga., shot a 596, just four shots off of a perfect score. He shot a perfect score of 100 in his final four rounds of targets.

Jonathan Hall and Michael Dickinson tied for second with a 595, and was closely followed by Phillip Huckaby firing a 592, good enough for a fourth place finish.

"We had the advantage of being at home and shooting on a familiar range," stated Dickinson. "However, we cannot continue to rely on air rifle to pull our scores up. We have to get better in smallbore."

The team also had unusual fan support. Many JSU students and staff came out to watch and see exactly what rifle is all about.

With the invitational being spread out over three days, the team shot throughout the weekend. They split up the team during the shoot and it seemed to help.

Having someone shoot one day

and then knowing what the rest of the team has to shoot is stressful, but the team handled it well and prevailed.

In smallbore, Joseph continued to shine when he captured the individual title by posting a 587 and helping the Gamecocks to a 2,299-2,288 win over OVC foe Tennessee Tech.

Dickinson took second overall with a 580, and freshmen Jonathan and Huckaby continued to drop by firing 566.

"Everyone seems to be focusing on air rifle before they even begin to shoot smallbore," Dickinson stated. "We need to shoot each event before we focus on the next. They are both equally important."

Murray State placed second with a 4,600, a distance of 77 points behind the Gamecocks.

This is the fifth time the Racers have placed second to JSU this season.

Memphis finished third with a 4,588, while Tennessee Tech rounded out the top four college teams competing

in both guns with a 4,570.

Some Gamecocks are currently in Colorado Springs from Nov. 29-Dec. 2, at the Olympic Training Center shooting for places on the Olympic and World Cup teams. Those members include Joseph, Jonathan, Dickinson, and Huckaby.

Jax State will take the rest of the winter season off and pick up on Jan. 20 at Tennessee Tech. They will face host Tech along with Murray State and many others.

JSU will then prepare for one more meet before Sectionals and the OVC Championships, which are to be held at JSU in February.

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